

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 are pending. Editorial revisions have been made to the specification and the claims in order to correct typographical errors. Further revisions have been made to claim 1 for the sake of clarity. No new matter has been added.

Amendments to the Claims

Claim 1 has been amended to recite, in part, an optical imaging system including a rod lens array including a plurality of rod lenses wherein the refractive index distribution of the rod lenses is expressed by: $n(r)^2 = n_0^2 \cdot \{1 - (g \cdot r)^2 + h_4 \cdot (g \cdot r)^4 + h_6 \cdot (g \cdot r)^6 + h_8 \cdot (g \cdot r)^8\}$, where h_4 is an x coordinate, h_6 is a y coordinate, and h_8 is a z coordinate in a three-dimensional Cartesian coordinate system and a locus of the refractive index distribution coefficients h_4 , h_6 , and h_8 is a spheroid. The spheroid is defined by a vector X^* that is expressed by: $X^* = (x, y, z) = O^* + k_A A^* + k_B B^* + k_C C^*$, where O^* is a vector from an origin of the Cartesian coordinate system to a center of the spheroid, A^* , B^* and C^* are vectors in the directions of a major axis, a mean axis and a minor axis of the spheroid, respectively, and k_A , k_B and k_C satisfy $k_A^2 + k_B^2 + k_C^2 \leq 1$. No new matter has been added.

Support for this limitation can be found in FIG. 7. Moreover, h_4 , h_6 , and h_8 are refractive index distribution coefficients, thus implying that they refer to x, y, and z coordinates. This amendment clarifies that the points whose coordinates are given by the refractive index distribution coefficients h_4 , h_6 , and h_8 are also present inside the spheroid. Support for this limitation comes from the relationship $k_A^2 + k_B^2 + k_C^2 \leq 1$, expressed in claim 1.

Amendments to the Specification

Editorial revisions have been made to the specification to correct typographical errors. In particular, the title of the application has been amended to recite "Optical Imaging System with Rod Lens Array." Furthermore, the term Equation 29 on page 17, line 6 has been amended to read Equation 13. No new matter has been added.

Objections to the Specification

The specification has been objected to for ambiguity. In particular, the rejection requested a clarification of the definition of the terms h_4 , h_6 , and h_8 . The terms h_4 , h_6 , and h_8 are

defined as x, y, and z coordinates in a three-dimensional Cartesian coordinate system. See page 3, lines 1-10 and Figure 7. No new matter has been added.

Claim Rejections

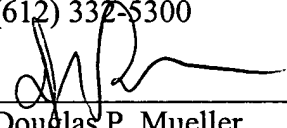
Claims 1-11 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph for failing to comply with the enablement requirement. In particular, the rejection expressed confusion over the definitions of the terms h_4 , h_6 , and h_8 . The examiner's comments have been considered and appropriate correction has been made. Applicants request reexamination and allowance of claims 1-11.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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